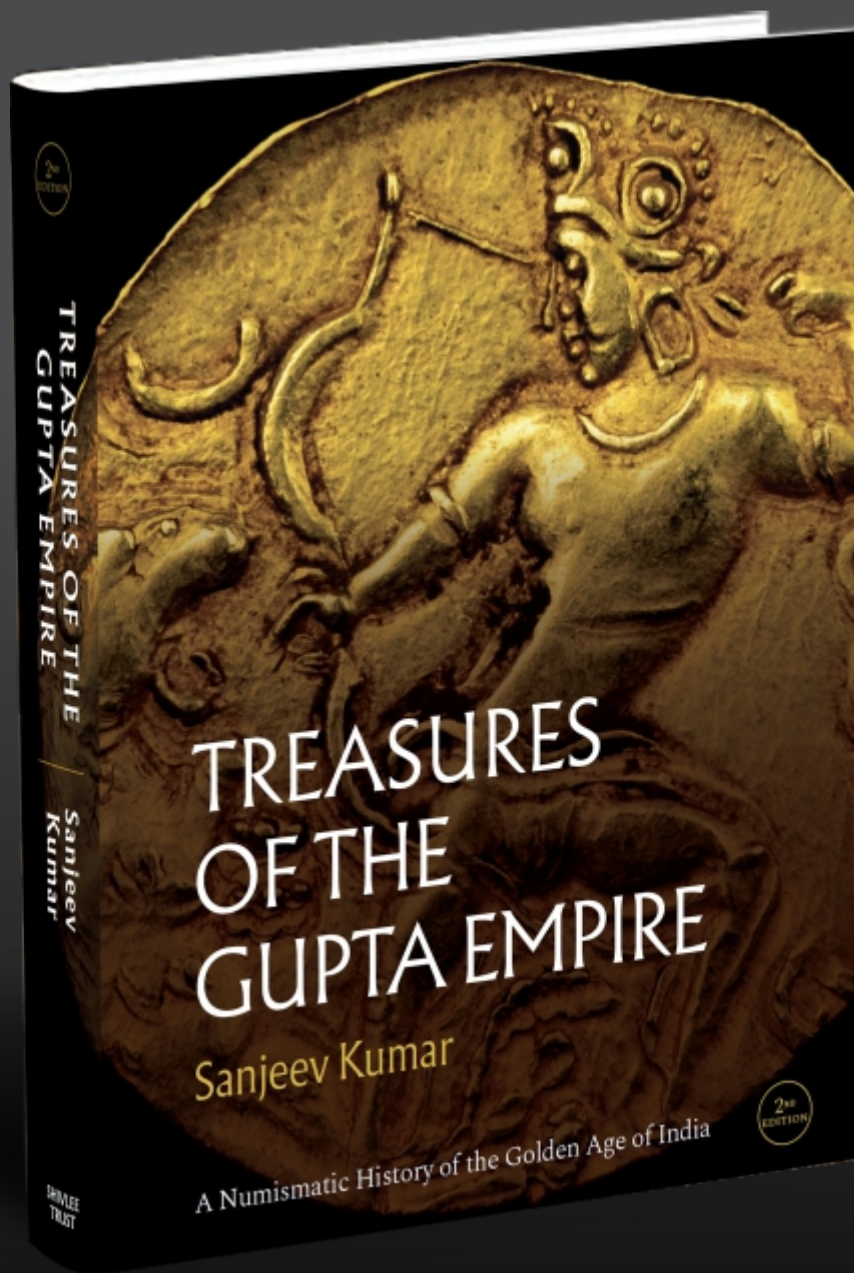
TREASURES OF THE GUPTA EMPIRE

Sanjeev Kumar

A Numismatic History of the Golden Age of India

2ND EDITION

STEP INTO THE GUPTA EMPIRE

A Journey Back in Time to India's Golden Age

Praise for the First Edition

Sanjeev Kumar's *Treasures of the Gupta Empire* is the first attempt at a comprehensive type catalogue of Gupta coins for fifty years. Implicitly, it is a replacement for Allan and Altekar both in content (with a lot of new material in the last half century) and in terms of organization (also supported by a great deal of new scholarship).

As a comprehensive reference on the gold coinage of the Gupta's it is no doubt a huge contribution. The enlarged images, relative ease of use, and comprehensive nature, will likely ensure the volume supplants any of its predecessors as the catalogue of choice. This is a volume that I would recommend as a standard reference to anyone with an interest in Gupta coinage.

—Robert Bracey, Curator, British Museum
***Journal of the Oriental Numismatic Society* No. 230.**

It is the best book ever written on Gupta coinage, surpassing Ellen Raven's work, which was the standard book on the subject. The book is well written and beautifully illustrated. Above all, it is a complete corpus, making it a magnum opus.

—Prof. Osmund-Christie Bopearachchi, University of California-Berkeley
Emeritus Director of Research, French National Centre for Scientific Research, Paris
CNRS-ENS, UMR 8546, Archéologies d'Orient et d'Occident.

His book on the imperial Guptas is a must-read.

—Prof. K. K. Thaplyal, Former Head of Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Lucknow. Visiting Fellow at the Banaras Hindu University, Vikram University, and Kurukshetra University.

If I am travelling again in the direction of coins now, it is because a meticulously worked, richly illustrated, recently published book on the *Treasures of the Gupta Empire* landed on my desk a few weeks ago. Put together by Sanjeev Kumar, it is truly a comprehensive catalogue of the gold and silver coins of the Guptas.

—B. N. Goswamy, Indian Art Critic and Historian.

The first edition of *Treasures of the Gupta Empire* turned out to be an indispensable tool without which serious research on Gupta history is not possible any longer. For classical questions, it provides new answers, and more importantly, it prompts you to develop new questions of your own. It is a visual delight.

—Harry Falk, Professor of Indology at the Freie Universität in Berlin. Director of the Institute of Indian Philology and Art History at the Free University in Berlin.

Treasures of the Gupta Empire is more than just a thorough and comprehensive catalogue of the stunning world of Gupta coinages—it is a visual delight! Paging through the book is a breathtaking journey through history engraved on coins of exceptional craftsmanship and highest artistic standards. We follow the fortunes of the dynasty with fascination, the campaigns, the politically motivated marriages, the rapid expansion and finally the rise to the dominant dynasty of northern India for more than two centuries. The Golden Age of India's numismatic history has never before been described and illustrated so beautifully!

—Dr. Wilfried Pieper, Eminent Numismatist and Author of Ancient Indian Coins.

Sanjeev Kumar treads the path of numismatic stalwarts like John Allan, A. S. Altekar, and P. L. Gupta in offering a most up-to-date survey of Gupta coinage in his *Treasures of the Gupta Empire* While improving on earlier typologies, this book also offers insights into lesser researched aspects of Gupta coins such as metallurgy using state-of-the-art analytical techniques. It helps to improve our understanding of what was an epochal period in Indian history and paves the way for future interdisciplinary and advanced research.

—Shailendra Bhandare, Curator of South Asian and Far-Eastern Coins and Paper Money, Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford.

Sanjeev has not only brought forward an updated catalog of the Gupta coinage, but he has also ventured to offer detailed research on metal analysis and XRF studies, dates on Gupta coins and inscriptions, hoards of the Gupta coins, and transition of Kuṣāṇa designs into that of the Guptas.

The numismatic community must thank Sanjeev for publishing all the known and unknown varieties of Gupta gold coins and those of the later Bengal rulers in one place.

Prashant P. Kulkarni, President, Indian Coin Society
Vice President, The Numismatic Society of India
Former Regional Secretary, The Oriental Numismatic Society.

...a quintessential guide, comprehensive and intuitive, full representation of coins from private collections and museums in India and across the world.

—*CoinsWeekly*, December 15, 2016.

It goes to the credit of Sanjeev Kumar to publish the most comprehensive catalogue of the Gupta coins including all coin-types published earlier and preserved in numerous museums of the world and even unpublished ones in some museums, personal and individual collections.

Chapters on Gupta history, genealogical and chronological tables, evolution of designs and motifs, metrology and metal analysis, trade routes, etc., serve as significant background for the study of coins issued by the Gupta emperors which of course forms the most important and valuable part of the work followed by late and post-Gupta and Kidarite Kāśmīr coinages.

Treasures of the Gupta Empire gives a virtual glimpse of the "Golden Age." It is useful not only to scholars and savants but also to the collectors and dealers to determine new types or varieties. Sanjeev Kumar deserves congratulations for this comprehensive and beautifully brought out volume.

—Devendra Handa, Editor-in-Chief, *Numismatic Digest***.**

The book is the most comprehensive survey of Gupta coinage attempted to date and invites the reader to appreciate the design and style innovations in a spectacular coinage produced during three-centuries of history often described as India's golden age. In addition to scholars and collectors, the book appeals to a wide range of interests. Students of Indian culture history, political history, art history, comparative religions, and numismatics will all find treasures to contemplate in over 400 pages of text and images. Kumar's passion is to fill numerous gaps and correct mistakes found in previous publications. That this history is revealed in Kumar's combination of ambitious text and detailed analysis of coin design is a landmark achievement.

—David Jongeward, author of *Kushan, Kushano-Sasanian, and Kidarite Coins from the American Numismatic Society.*

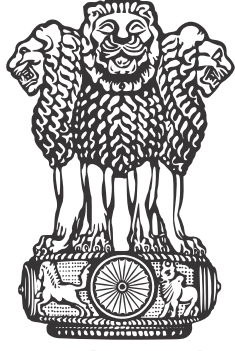
Foreword to the Second Edition

The Gupta period is remarkable for development in the fields of art, science, and literature, and for that reason has been labelled as the "Classical Age" and the "Golden Age" in Indian history. The gold coins of the Guptas, found in large numbers, are evidence of the prosperity of the people, and have contributed in some measure in labelling the age as "golden."

It was generally believed that after the publication of the catalogue dealing with of the coins of the Gupta dynasty in the British Museum by John Allan (1914), and the *Corpus of Indian Coins*, vol. IV, by A. S. Altekar (1957), all the types of the gold coins are known and their interpretations are settled. Sanjeev Kumar's work, *Treasures of the Gupta Empire*, is one such example which shows that new types have been found and new interpretations are possible.

The learned author does not base his study on the photographs of coins published in books and journals, which is the most common practice, but has made a first-hand study of the Gupta coins located in various museums and private collections in India and abroad. A remarkable feature of his work is the inclusion of excellent photographs of the coins, which make one feel as if he or she is seeing the actual coins. He has done a great service to the cause of numismatic studies, as the photographs will be of a great help to scholars engaged in the study of Gupta coins. He has critically discussed the views of different scholars relating to the identification of the devices and legends on the coins and their interpretations, has shown agreement or disagreement with them, and has given reason for that; and in a number of cases offers new identification and interpretation.

Kiran Kumar Thaplyal.
Ex Professor and Head of the Department,
Ancient Indian History and Archaeology,
Lucknow University, Lucknow.

Foreword to the First Edition

The unification of kingdoms and political control over a vast territory of the Indian subcontinent during the rule of the Gupta emperors brought about peace and prosperity and enabled the pursuit of scientific, literary, and artistic manifestations marking the time span as the Classical Age of Indian history. This Golden Age of India is credited for extensive inventions and discoveries in science, technology, engineering, medicine, art, architecture, dialectic, logic, literature, mathematics, astronomy, religion, and philosophy. The creative genius of the Guptas is also reflected in their coinage, which has become a source of study of art, economy, political history, and religion.

John Allan's catalogue (1914) on Gupta coins and A. S. Altekar's book, *The Coinage of the Gupta Empire* (1957), were landmark studies on Gupta numismatics. Based on Altekar's classification, other catalogues subsequently appeared, but all of them were primarily concerned with distinct collections or hoards. We must compliment Sri Sanjeev Kumar for publishing the present volume, which comprehensively incorporates each known coin type of the Imperial Guptas and later Guptas as well as other contemporary dynasties.

One can imagine the hard work and professional excellence involved in compiling this work, which the author has completed after his study of collections in various museums and institutions as well as in many private collections both in India and abroad. He has compared the coinage and has also analyzed various connected issues. Before the beginning of the catalogue of coins of individual rulers, the author has devoted a considerable part of the book to significant notes on designs and art, chronology, metrology, metal analysis, and weights.

I wish and hope that the present work will become an index of Gupta coinage and would certainly get attention of scholars and general readers.

B. R. Mani
Director General
National Museum, New Delhi Ministry of Culture
Government of India

Foreword to the First Edition

The British Museum

The coins of the Gupta Empire provide vital evidence for our understanding of the history of ancient India. They are the most numerous surviving official documents of this important period in the development of India as a nation. During the Gupta period Indian imperial power became defined in new ways and the ancient religions of India became focussed through imperial patronage into the forms we now recognize as Hinduism. It was a period that has been justly described by many as a "golden age."

In spite of its importance, knowledge of this great empire only re-emerged from the mists of the past in the nineteenth century when scholars began to recognise its place in India's history. These scholars discovered the inscriptions erected in the names of Gupta emperors and at the same time recognised the coins issued by their administrations. By the early twentieth century an outline history had been constructed from these two sources with the addition of the unclear references in contemporary literature, archaeological excavations and art datable to their period.

Gupta India emerged as a period when a great empire ruled across a large part of northern India and its patronage promoted the creation of great art and literature. Within its realm Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism flourished and gave rise to a new style of art which spread into all the surrounding regions: east into Burma and Thailand, south into Andhra and Śrī Laṅka, north into Nepal and Tibet, and west into Afghanistan and central Asia. The same art created a coinage of great beauty and complexity.

This new volume marks another stage in the development of a modem understanding of that coinage as one of the key components in the construction of a history of the Gupta Empire. Although there have been many publications on Gupta coins, Sanjeev Kumar is here taking what is only the third important step in presenting the Gupta coinage in a framework rendering the data preserved by the coins in an accessible form. He now pushes forward the work done by John Allan (1914) and A. S. Altekar (1957), integrating into their achievements a wide range of coins not known to those scholars, together with new approaches to typological, metallurgical and metrological analysis which open up new aspects of research.

I congratulate Sanjeev Kumar in this ambitious restatement of the historical and cultural importance of Gupta coinage. Like the work of Allan and Altekar, this volume, this giant step, will remain an authoritative tool for documenting one of the most important periods in the history of India for decades.

Joe Cribb
Retired Keeper of Coins and Medals, British Museum
Secretary General, Oriental Numismatic Society

Gupta Empire
4th Century AD.
COPPER PLATES
GUPTA INSCRIPTIONS
GUPTA COIN FINDS
ANCIENT CITIES
Formation of the Gupta Empire
CHANDRAGUPTA I'S CONQUESTS
CHANDRAGUPTA II'S CONQUESTS
SAMUDRAGUPTA'S CONQUESTS
GUPTA EMPIRE
ARABIAN SEA
BAY OF BENGAL
INDIAN OCEAN
KADAMBA
345-525
GANGAS
350-550
PALLAVAS
CHOLAS
PANDYAS
THAMBAPARNI
GANGAS
Taxila
Multan
Khura
Karakuram Highway
Rupar
Sunet
Mithathal
Delhi
South Delhi
Indrapura
Ahichhatra
At Soron on Ganges
Etah district
Mathura
Bayana Hoard
Mathura district
Naliasar-Sambhar
Nagari village
Bairh
Gwalior fort
Gwalior
Bangarmau
Barabanki District
Basti Hoard
Khukhundoo
Madankola
Kaushambi
Varanasi (Kaśi)
Fort in Bihar
Bihar
Nandapur
Dinajpur district
Paharpur
Nowgong
Gaya district
Banka
Bogra district
Bogra
Galsi
Faridpur district
Gunaighar
Gopalgunj
Hasnan Hoard
Kalighat
Kota, Rajastha
Tumain
Nachna
Shankarpur
Baghelkhand area
Eran
Garj
Jabalpur
Anuppur
Sondani
Risthal
Durjanpur
Vidisha
Sanchi
Raisen district
Gangadhar
Ujjain
Kutch
Taluka Mandvi & Mundra
Ahmadabad
Sanjeli
Cambey
Bhabnagar
Junagadh
Amreli
Bharuch
Naravala
Barnnala/ Bhikangaon
Sondhni
Tirodi
Ramtek
Amaravati
Miregaon
Nagpur
Brahmapuri Excavations
Pitaiband/ Raipur
Cave 17, Ajanta
Thane district
Poona
Bhendwade
Telagunda
Brahmapur
Indus
Kabul
Kunar
Yarkant
Jhelum
Chenab
Gomal
Zhob
Ravi
Baes
Sutlej
Yamuna
Ganges
Ramganga
Ghaghara
Gandak
Kosi
Tsang po
Salween
Amu Darya
Son
Chambal
Sabarmati
Narmada
Mahanadi
Godavari
Wardha
Krishna
Tungabhadra
Kaveri
0 90 180 360 Miles

TREASURES OF THE GUPTA EMPIRE
COPPER PLATES
GUPTA INSCRIPTIONS
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ANCIENT CITIES
ARABIAN SEA
BAY OF BENGAL
INDIAN OCEAN
0 90 180 360 Miles
Yarkant
Kunar
Indus
Kabul
Taxila
Jhelum
Chenab
Gomal
Zhob
Karakuram Highway
Baes
Rupar
Sunet
Ravi
Multan
Sutlej
Khura
Yamuna
Ganges
Ramganga
Ghaghara
Gandak
Kosi
Tsang po
Salween
Mithathal
Delhi
South Delhi
Indrapura
Ahichhatra
At Soron on Ganges
Mathura
Etah district
Nallasar-Sarnbhar
Bayana Hoard
Mathura district
Bangarmau
Barabanki District
Basti Hoard
Khukhundoo
Dinajpur district
Nagari village
Bairh
Gwalior fort
Gwalior
Faizabad district
Madankola
Bihar
Nandapur
Kaushambi
Son
Fort in Bihar
Paharpur
Nowgong
Kota, Rajastha
Chambal
Varanasi (Kaśi)
Tumain
Nachna
Gaya district
Banka
Bogra district
Sondani
Risthal
Eran
Ganj
Shankarpur
Kutch
Sabarmati
Gangadhar
Durjanpur
Vidisha
Sānchi
Jabalpur
Baghelkhand area
Bogra
Galsi
Faridpur district
Gunaighar
Gopalgunj
Taluka Mandvi & Mundra
Ahmadabad
Sanjeli
Ujjain
Raisen district
Anuppur
Hasnan Hoard
Kalighat
Cambey
Sondhni
Narmada
Bhabnagar
Barnnala/ Bhikangaon
Tirodi
Junagadh
Amreli
Naravala
Bharuch
Amaravati
Ramtek
Miregāon
Nagpur
Pitaiband/ Raipur
Mahanadi
Cave 17, Ajanta
Brahmapuri Excavations
Wardha
Thane district
Godavari
Brahmapur
Poona
Bhendwade
Krishna
Tungabhadra
Talagunda
Kaveri

TREASURES OF THE
GUPTA EMPIRE

A Catalogue of Coins of the
Gupta Dynasty

गुप्त राजवंश 320 ई. - 543 ई.

चंद्रगुप्त I, राजदंड प्रकार, शिवली कलेक्शन 1001, 7.8 ग्राम

यह सोने का सिक्का गुप्त वंश के पहले राजा महाराजाधिराज चंद्रगुप्त प्रथम - विक्रमादित्यः द्वारा जारी किया गया था। जिन्होंने 319-343ई. तक शासन किया। इस मुद्रायें पर उन्होंने अपने बाएं हाथ से एक राजदंड पकड़ रखा है, जो संसद के उद्घाटन के समय मोदी जी द्वारा उठाए गए सेनगोल के समान है। यह सिक्का मेरी पुस्तक 'ट्रेज़र्स ऑफ द गुप्त एम्पायर' में शामिल है, जिसका विमोचन माननीय प्रधान मंत्री मोदी जी ने किया था। इसलिए, इस मुद्रायें के डिज़ाइन को " प्रकार" नाम दिया गया था। यह एक अत्यंत दुर्लभ प्रकार का सिक्का है जो लगभग 320AD के आसपास जारी किया गया था और शाही राजदंड - राजदंड को दर्शाने वाले प्राचीन भारत के पहले डिजाइनों में से एक है।

अग्रभागः राजा को एक प्रभामंडल के साथ दिखाया गया है और उसका सिर बाईं ओर मुड़ा हुआ है। वह अपने दाहिने हाथ से अग्नि कुंड में आहुति दे रहे हैं। मुद्रायें के बाईं ओर, हम गरुड़ को एक स्टैंड (गरुड़ध्वज) पर बैठे हुए देखते हैं। राजा का नाम चंद्र उनके बाएँ हाथ के नीचे लिखा हुआ है जो राजदंड पकड़े हुए है। कुछ सिक्कों पर हम केवल चंद्रगु नाम देखते हैं और अन्य सिक्कों पर हम पूरा नाम - चंद्र-गुप्त देखते हैं। अग्रभाग पर गोलाकार लेख 1 बजे से शुरू होती है - वसुधां विजित जयति त्रिदिवं पृथ्वीश्वरः [पुण्यैः], "दुनिया पर विजय प्राप्त करने के बाद, पृथ्वी के स्वामी अब मेधावी कर्मों से स्वर्ग जीतते हैं"।

पृष्ठभागः देवी एक सिंहासन पर विराजमान हैं और सिंहासन का पिछला भाग किसी मुद्रायें पर दिखाई देता है। वह सामने की ओर मुंह करके खड़ी है, उसके दाहिने हाथ में एक मुकुट है जिसे कभी-कभी मनके डिजाइन के रूप में देखा जा सकता है (कुछ सिक्कों पर यह कमलाक्ष माला जैसा दिखता है)। वह अपने बाएं हाथ में एक कॉर्नुकोपिया रखती है जो उसकी जांघ पर टिकी हुई है। उनके बायीं ओर की लेख में परमभागवत लिखा है - "प्रमुख भक्त (विष्णु का)"। भारत कला भवन के मुद्रायें पर, बिरुदा परमभागवतो है। उनके पैर एक पुष्प डिज़ाइन पर टिके हुए हैं, जो उनके पैरों पर एक गोलाकार सीमा के भीतर बिंदुओं के रूप में दिखाया गया है और कुछ सिक्कों पर उनके पैरों के नीचे पूरी पंखुड़ियों के साथ एक कमल के फूल का डिज़ाइन दिखाई देने लगता है, जो हमें दिखाता है कि यह देवी लक्ष्मी हैं। उपरोक्त यह सिक्का प्रसिद्ध शिवली संग्रह का हिस्सा है।

गुप्त राजवंश के सुर्वण-मुद्रायें 319 ई. - 543 ई.

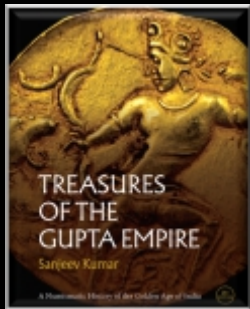
चौथी शताब्दी ईस्वी में, भारत के उत्तर और मध्य क्षेत्र गुप्त राजाओं के नियंत्रण में आ गए और जैसे-जैसे उन्होंने अपने राज्य का विस्तार किया, उन्होंने सोने, चाँदी, सीसा और तांबे में नए और सुंदर मुद्रायें जारी कीं। सोने की पहली मुद्रायें महाराजाधिराज चंद्रगुप्त प्रथम द्वारा 320 ईस्वी के आसपास जारी की गई थीं। गुप्त राजा प्रत्येक हिंदू देवता की समान रूप से पूजा करते थे और उनके सिक्कों और नामों से पता चलता है कि वे उन प्रतीकों और प्रतिमाओं के प्रति समर्पण रखते थे जो उन शुरुआती वर्षों के दौरान उभर रहे थे। उदाहरण के लिए, यह पहला सिक्का, राजा और रानी पर्यंक पर आसीन वाला प्रकार, भागवत पुराण में वर्णित वैकुण्ठ दृश्य का अनुकरण करता है। सिक्कों में ऐसे रूपांकन (डिज़ाइन) और संदेश हमें हमारे अतीत के बारे में जानकारी देने में मदद करते हैं।

प्रत्येक मुद्राओं का एक ऊपरी भाग होता है जिसे अग्रभाग कहा जाता है - आमतौर पर यहीं पर राजा की छवि देखी जाती है। मुद्राओं के पिछले हिस्से को पृष्ठभाग कहा जाता है, जहाँ हम या तो एक हिंदू देवता या देवी को दर्शाते हैं। प्रत्येक मुख्य रूपांकन (डिज़ाइन) बनाया शैली को एक प्रकार कहा जाता है। चूँकि मुद्रायें उनके विशाल साम्राज्य में अलग-अलग टकसालों में बनाए जाते थे, इसलिए अलग -अलग कारीगरों ने अपने स्थानीय विचारों और शैली का उपयोग करके मुख्य रूपांकन (डिज़ाइन)बनाया: उदाहरण के लिए, कन्नौज में एक टकसाल द्वारा धनुर्धारी (आर्चर) प्रकार के लिए रूपांकित (डिज़ाइन) की गई मुद्रायें एक टकसाल में बनाए गए समान रूपांकन (डिज़ाइन) से भिन्न होंगे। विदिशा या राजस्थान क्षेत्र. मुख्य रूपांकन (डिज़ाइन)के इन छोटे बदलावों को 'विविधता' कहा जाता है - मुख्य धनुर्धारी (आर्चर) प्रकार के रूपांकन (डिज़ाइन) की विभिन्न किस्मों में राजा को दाईं या बाईं ओर मुख किए हुए, विभिन्न प्रकार के कपड़े पहने हुए, तलवार या खंजर या आभूषण आदि के साथ या उसके बिना दिखाया जा सकता है।

ऐसी हजारों मुद्रायें अभी भी मध्य भारत में पाए जाते हैं और उन्हें इकट्ठा करना और इतिहास जानना मजेदार है। ये मुद्रायें भी सोने के छोटे दस्तावेज़ हैं - इनमें उस समय क्या हो रहा था, इसकी जानकारी मिलती है। उदाहरण के लिए, शक्तिशाली राजा समुद्रगुप्त प्रथम द्वारा जारी युद्धीय खड्ग प्रकार (बैटल एक्स टाइप) का एक रूपांकन (डिज़ाइन) दिखाता है जहां अन्य छोटे राजाओं को उनकी बढ़ती सेना के रास्ते से हटने की चेतावनी दी गई है - वह खुद को 'सभी राजाओं का विनाशक' के रूप में संदर्भित करता है - मुद्राओं के अग्र भाग पर मुद्रालेख प्राचीन ब्राह्मी लिपि में लिखा है कृतान्तपरशुर्जयात्यजित राजजेताजित: - "विजेता अजेय राजाओं का विजेता है, जो स्वयं मृत्यु के देवता की युद्ध की कुल्हाड़ी के रूप में अजेय है"! अधिकांश सिक्कों पर मुद्रायें के आगे या पीछे राजा का नाम भी अंकित होता है। सुर्वण-मुद्रायें भी अलग-अलग वजन में ढाली गई थीं। सिक्कों को इकट्ठा करते समय, वजन को लिख लेना और सिक्का कहाँ पाया गया था, यह लिख लेना बहुत महत्वर्पूण है - <u>यह बहुत महत्वर्पूण है क्योंकि इससे हमें यह पहचानने में मदद मिलती है कि किस राजा ने सिक्का जारी किया था और खोज स्थान हमें यह समझने में भी मदद करता है कि सिक्का कहाँ चलन में था।</u>

गुप्त राजाओं के संर्पूण मुद्राओं को समाहित करने वाली मुख्य पुस्तक श्री संजीव कुमार द्वारा गुप्त साम्राज्यका खजाना है। उन्हें मिस्टर शिवली के नाम से भी जाना जाता है, जिसका नाम इसी प्रसिद्ध शिवली संग्रह के लिए रखा गया है। यह महत्वर्पूण पुस्तक गुप्त वंश के तथ्य आधारित इतिहास का निर्माण करती है। इस पुस्तक से पहले, मुद्रायें पर एकमात्र अन्य मुख्य पुस्तक डॉ. ए.एस. अल्कतेर द्वारा 1957 में जारी की गई थी। साठ साल बाद, इस नई पुस्तक का विमोचन दिल्ली के राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय में संस्कृति मंत्री द्वारा किया गया था। प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी ने इस महत्वर्पूण पुस्तक को आशीर्वाद देने और विमोचन करने के लिए संजीवजी को अपने आवास पर आमंत्रित किया।

पुस्तक और गुप्त राजवंश के इतिहास के बारे में अधिक जानकारी www.shivlee.com पर उपलब्ध है। पुस्तक के कुछ अध्याय https://independent.acadmedia.edu/ShiveleeSanjeevKumar पर मुफ्त डाउनलोड के लिए भी उपलब्ध हैं।

अगले दो पृष्ठों में विभिन्न सिक्कों के प्रकार दिखाए गए हैं और अंतिम पृष्ठ पर, आप देखेंगे कि किन मुद्राओं के सोने में किस प्रकार के सिक्के जारी किये गए, साथ ही सोने के सिक्कों की वजन सीमा भी। सुर्वण-मुद्रायें सिक्का डीलरों से और भारत और दुनिया भर में आयोजित विभिन्न मुद्राओं (सिक्कों) की प्रदर्शनियों में भी खरीदे जा सकते हैं। कई अलग-अलग नीलामी घर भी मुद्रायें पेश करते हैं और उनकी वेबसाइटें उपयोगी जानकारी प्रदान कर सकती हैं।

Gupta Dynasty   319 AD - 543 AD

Chandragupta I, Rajadanda Type, Shivlee Collection 1001, 7.8gm

This gold coin was issued by the first king of the Gupta dynasty, *Mahārājādhirāja* Chandragupta I - Vikramādityaḥ. Who ruled from 319-343AD. On this coin he holds a Rajadanda with his left hand, very similar to the Sengol carried by Modi ji at the opening of the Parliament. This coin is featured in my book '***Treasures of the Gupta Empire'*** which released by Honorable Prime Minister Modi ji.
Therefore, this coin design was given the name "Rajadanda Type". This is an extremely rare type coin issued around approximately 320AD and is one of the first designs of Ancient India to show a Royal Scepter - Rajadanda.

Obverse: The king is shown with a halo and his head turned to the left. With his right hand he is offering oblations onto the *Agnī kuṇḍa* . On the left side of the coin, we see the Garuda sitting on a stand (Garuadhavaja). The king's name Chandra is written below his left hand which is turned up holding the Rajadanda. On some coins, we only see the name *Chandragu* and on other coins we see the full name - *Chandra-Gupta*. The circular legend on the obverse starts as 1 o'clock - *vasudhāṃ vijitya jayati tridivaṃ pṛithivīśvaraḥ [punyaiḥ],* "Having conquered the globe, the lord of the earth now wins heaven by meritorious deed".

Reverse: The Goddess is seated on a throne and the back of the throne is visible on some coin. She is facing to front, holding a diadem in her right hand which sometimes can be seen as a beaded design (on some coins it looks like a Kamalāksha mālā). She holds a cornucopia in her left-hand which rests on her thigh. The legend to her left reads *paramabhāgavata* - "the foremost devotee (of Vishnu)". On the Bharat Kala Bhavan coin, the biruda is paramabhāgavato. Her feet rest on a floral design shown as dots within a circular border at her feet and on some coins a lotus flower design with full petals starts to appear below her feet which shows us that this is Goddess Lakshmi. This coin above is part of the famous Shivlee Collection.

Gold coins of the Gupta Dynasty 320 AD - 543 AD

In the 4th century AD, the north and central India came under the control of the Gupta King. As they expanded their kingdom, they issued new and beautiful coins in gold, silver, lead and copper. The first coins were issued in gold by Mahārājādhirāja Chandragupta I around 320AD. The Gupta kings venerated each of the Hindu gods equally and their coins and names show they devotion to the symbols and iconography that was emerging during those early years. For example, this first coin, the King and Queen on Couch Type emulates the *Vaikuṇṭha* scene as described in the Bhagavata Purana. Such designs and messages in the coins help provide us clues about our past.

Each coin has a front which is called Obverse – this is usually where the King's image is seen. The back of the coin is called the reverse, where we see either a Hindu gods or goddess shown. Each main design style is called a Type. Since coins were produced at different mints across their vast kingdom, different craftsmen made the main design using their local ideas and style: For example, coins designed for Archer Type by a mint in Kannauj will be different from the same design made in a mint in Vidisha or Rajasthan regions. These minor variations of the main design is called a 'Variety'– different varieties of a main Archer Type design may show the king facing right or left, wearing different types of clothing, with or without a sword, or a dagger, or jewelry etc.

Thousands of such coins are still found across central India and it is fun to collect them and learn the history. These coins are also mini documents in gold – they hold clues of what was happening during that time. For example, the Battle Axe type issued the powerful king Samudragupta I, shows a design where is warning the other smaller kings to step out the way of his advancing army – He refers to himself as the 'exterminator of all kings' – the inscription on the front of the coin in ancient Brahmi script is *Kṛitāntaparaśur jayatyajita rājajetāt'jitaḥ* - "Victorious is the conqueror of unconquered kings, himself invincible as The Battle Axe of God of Death"! Most of the coins also have the name of the King on the front or the back of the coin. The gold coins were also struck in different weights. When collecting coins, it is very important to record the weight and where the coin was found– this is very important as it helps us identify which king issued the coin and the find spot also helps us understand where the coin was circulating.

The most recent book covering the entire coinage of the Gupta Kings is the ***Treasures of the Gupta Empire***, by Shri. Sanjeev Kumar. He is also known as Mr. Shivlee, named for this very famous Shivlee Collection. This important book builds a fact-based history of the Gupta Dynasty. Prior to this book, the only other main book on the coinage was by Dr. A.S. Altekar released in 1957. Sixty years later, this new book was released at the National Museum in Delhi by the Minister of Culture. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, also released the book at his residence.

More details on the book and the history of the Gupta Dynasty are available at www.Shivlee.com .

A few chapters from the book are also available for free download on https://independent.academia.edu/ShivleeSanjeevKumar .

The different coin Types are shown in the next two pages and on the last page, you will see which coins issued what Type of coin in gold, along with the weight range for gold coins. Gold coins can be bought from coin dealers and also at various coin shows held across India and the world. Many different Auction houses also offer the coins, and their websites can provide helpful information.

Gold coins of Kings of Gupta Dynasty   गुप्तवंश के राजाओं के सोने के सिक्के (सुवर्ण-मुद्रायें)

This is a quick reference guide for collectors to identify gold coins quickly. Each type shown below may also have many varieties (different designs to show the same scene) and were issued by different kings. All Gupta Kings used the Archer design, but some kings introduced new coin designs, or repeated earlier designs issued by by their father or grandfather with new design changes. Studying and collecting all the different variations helps us to understand history better. The obverse and reverse of each coin type is shown below.

यह संग्राहकों के लिए सोने के सिक्कों की तुरंत पहचान करने के लिए एक त्वरित संदर्भ मार्गदर्शिका है। नीचे दिखाए गए प्रत्येक प्रकार की कई किस्में हो सकती हैं (एक ही दृश्य दिखाने के लिए अलग-अलग डिज़ाइन) पर विभिन्न राजाओं द्वारा जारी किए गए थे। धनुषधारी(आर्चर) रूपांकन का उपयोग सभी गुप्त राजाओं द्वारा किया गया था, लेकिन कुछ राजाओं ने नए सिक्कों के डिज़ाइन पेश किए, या नए डिज़ाइन परिवर्तनों के साथ अपने पिता या दादा द्वारा जारी किए गए पुराने डिज़ाइनों को दोहराया। सभी विभिन्न विविधताओं का अध्ययन और संग्रह करने से हमें इतिहास को बेहतर ढंग से समझने में मदद मिलती है। प्रत्येक सिक्के के प्रकार का अग्र और पृष्ठ नीचे दिखाया गया है।

Chandragupta I चंद्रगुप्त प्रथम — King Queen on Couch Type पर्यंक पर राजा रानी प्रकार

Chandragupta I 319-343AD चंद्रगुप्त प्रथम — Couch Type पर्यंक प्रकार

Chandragupta II 383-412AD चंद्रगुप्त द्वितीय — Couch Type पर्यंक प्रकार

Samudragupta I 344-378AD समुद्रगुप्त प्रथम — King Queen Type राजा-रानी प्रकार

Chandragupta I चंद्रगुप्त प्रथम — Rajadanda Type राज-दंड प्रकार

Chandragupta I चंद्रगुप्त प्रथम — Archer Type - bow & arrow Goddess seated on throne धनुषधारी प्रकार - धनुष और बाण सिंहासन पर देवी

Chandragupta II चंद्रगुप्त द्वितीय — Archer Type - Havan Kund Goddess seated on Lotus धनुषधारी प्रकार - हवन कुंड कमलासन पर देवी

Chandragupta II चंद्रगुप्त द्वितीय — Archer Type - Quiver धनुषधारी प्रकार - तूणीर कमलासन पर देवी

Chandragupta II चंद्रगुप्त द्वितीय — Archer Type - bow & arrow धनुषधारी प्रकार - धनुष और बाण कमलासन पर देवी

Samudragupta I समुद्रगुप्त प्रथम — Battle Axe Type परशु प्रकार

Samudragupta I समुद्रगुप्त प्रथम — Javelin Type भिण्डिपाल प्रकार

Samudragupta I समुद्रगुप्त प्रथम — Asvamedha Type अश्वमेध प्रकार

Gold coins of Kings of Gupta Dynasty   गुप्तवंश के राजाओं के सोने के सिक्के (सुवर्ण-मुद्रायें)

Samudragupta I 344-378AD
समुद्रगुप्त प्रथम
Lyrist Type
वीणा प्रकार

Samudragupta I
समुद्रगुप्त प्रथम
Tiger Slayer Type - Goddess Ganga
व्याघ्र-निहन्ता प्रकार - देवी गंगा

Ramagupta-Kachagupta
रामगुप्त-काचगुप्त
Chakradhavaja Type
चक्रध्वज प्रकार

Chandragupta II
चंद्रगुप्त द्वितीय
Chakravikrama Type
चक्रविक्रम प्रकार

Chandragupta II
चंद्रगुप्त द्वितीय
Chhatra Type
छत्र प्रकार

Chandragupta II
चंद्रगुप्त द्वितीय
Horseman Type
अश्वारोही प्रकार

Chandragupta II
चंद्रगुप्त द्वितीय
Lion Slayer Type
सिंह-निहन्ता प्रकार

Kumāragupta I
कुमारगुप्त प्रथम
Apratigha Type
अप्रतिघ प्रकार

Kumāragupta I
कुमारगुप्त प्रथम
Elephant Rider Type
हाथी सवार प्रकार

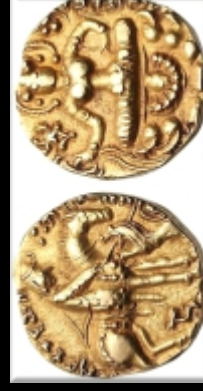
Kumāragupta I
कुमारगुप्त प्रथम
Elephant Rider Lion Slayer type
गजारोही सिंह निहन्ता

Kumāragupta I
कुमारगुप्त प्रथम
Garuda Type
गरुड प्रकार

Kumāragupta I 409-452AD
कुमारगुप्त प्रथम
Kartikeya Type
कार्तिकेय प्रकार

Kumāragupta I
कुमारगुप्त प्रथम
Rhinoceros Slayer Type
गैंडा शिकारी प्रकार

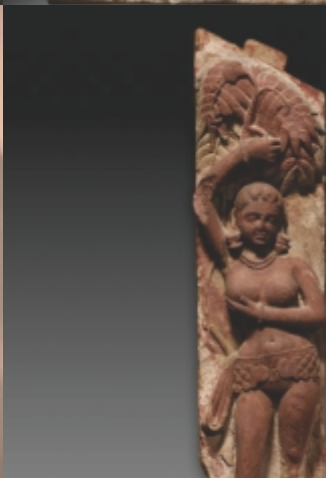
Kumāragupta I
कुमारगुप्त प्रथम
Swordsman Type
असि-धारी प्रकार

Skandagupta
स्कन्दगुप्त
449-468AD
King & Lakshmi Type
राजा-रानी एवं लक्ष्मी प्रकार

Prakāśaditya
प्रकाशादित्य
496AD
Horseman Lion Slayer Type
अश्वारोही सिंह-निहन्ता

This is an example of an Archer type (with Bow and Arrow) gold *dināra* issued by Chandragupta II (second). On front of this coin, the name of king is usually written Brahmi script, under his left arm *Chandra*. The biruda of king is shown on the back, left of goddess Lakshmi - *Srī Vikramaḥ*.

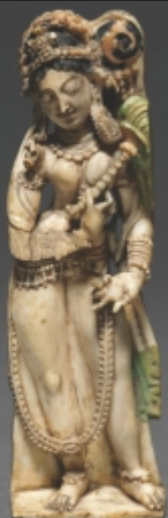
Obverse अग्रभाग　　　　Reverse पृष्ठभाग

यह चंद्रगुप्त द्वितीय द्वारा जारी धनुर्धारी धनुष और बाण प्रकार के सोने के दीनार का एक उदाहरण है। इस मुद्रायें के सामने आमतौर पर राजा का नाम ब्राह्मी लिपि में लिखा होता है, उसकी बायीं भुजा के नीचे चन्द्र लिखा होता है। राजा का विरुद देवी लक्ष्मी के बाईं ओर पर दिखाया गया है - श्री विक्रमः।

King	Name	Biruda
Samudragupta	*Sri Samudraguptaḥ*	*Parākramaḥ*
Ramagupta	*Rāmaguptaḥ*	*Kācha*
Chandragupta	*Chandraguptaḥ*	*Śrī Vikramaḥ*　*Vikramādityaḥ*
Kumaragupta	*Kumāraguptaḥ*	*Śrī Mahendrādityaḥ*
Skandagupta	*Śrī Skandaguptaḥ*	*Śrī Kramādityaḥ & Vikramādityaḥ*
Ghatotkachagupta	*Ghato*	
Budhagupta	*Srī Buddhogupto*	*Srī Vikramaḥ*

GUPTA SCULPTURES

GUPTA SCULPTURES

Devanāgarī	Phonetic Sound	3rd Century B.C.	2nd to 1st Century B.C.	1st Century A.D.	2nd Century A.D.	5th Century A.D.
अ	a					
आ	á					
इ	i				or	
ई	ī				or	
उ	u					
ऊ	ú					
ऋ	rĭ					
ए	ae					
ऐ	ai					
ओ	o					
औ	au					
अं	aṁ					
अः	aha					
क	ka					
का	ká					

Devanāgarī	Phonetic Sound	3rd Century B.C.	2nd to 1st Century B.C.	1st Century A.D.	2nd Century A.D.	5th Century A.D.
ख	kha					
कृ	krĭ					
ग	ga					
गि	gi					
घ	gha					
घी	ghī					
च	cha					
छ	chha					
चु	chu					
छू	chhú					
ज	ja					
झ	jha					
ञ	ñya					
ट	ṭa					
ठ	thh					

Appendix II: List of Brāhmī Letters

Devanāgarī	Phonetic Sound	3rd Century B.C.	2nd to 1st Century B.C.	1st Century A.D.	2nd Century A.D.	5th Century A.D.
ड	ḍa			or		
ढ	ḍha					
ण	ṇa					
त	ta					
थ	tha					
द	da					
ध	dh					
ङ	ṇa					
न	na					
प	pa					
फ	pha					
ब	ba					
भ	bha					
म	ma					
मो	mo					

Devanāgarī	Phonetic Sound	3rd Century B.C.	2nd to 1st Century B.C.	1st Century A.D.	2nd Century A.D.	5th Century A.D.
र	ra					
ल	la					
व	va					
ह	ha					
स	sa					
श	ṣa					
ष	sha					
स्य	sya					
य	ya					
श्री	Śrī					

BRAHMI NUMERALS USED ON GUPTA AND KSHATRAPA COINS

UNITS	
1	
2	
3	or
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
0	Was not used

TENS	
10	
20	
30	
40	
50	
60	
70	
80	
90	

HUNDREDS	
100	
200	
300	

Śaka Era Year 1 = AD 78
Gupta Era Year 1 = AD 319

Dates on coins are usually preceded by *Varshe (year) or just Va.*

Varshe 80 + 1 = Gupta Era 81
GE 81 + 319 = AD 400

Va 100 + 10 + 5 = 115
GE 115 + 319 = AD 434

Dates from inscriptions and coins are assumed to have used current year 1 = AD 319, Instead of elapsed or expired year.

PHOTOS OF FIRST RELEASE